



STATE OF WASHINGTON  
WASHINGTON STATE BOARD OF HEALTH  
1102 SE Quince Street • PO Box 47990  
Olympia, Washington 98504-7990

March 14, 2001

TO: Washington State Board of Health Members

FROM: Carl Osaki, Member

RE: Update on Food Safety in Adult Family Homes and Substitute House Bill 1320

**Background and Summary:**

In October 2000, the Board received a petition from a representative of the Adult Family Home community to repeal WAC 246-217-010. The petition argued that the Adult Family Home community was not properly included in the rulemaking process and that the Department of Health (DOH) did not follow the appropriate process. The Board decided in November 2000 to deny the petition on the finding that DOH did follow the appropriate protocol and that the rule was properly adopted. Recognizing the concerns of the Adult Family Home community, the Board asked DOH to solicit broad-based input regarding the level of food safety training necessary to protect the health of residents in Adult Family Homes and to report recommendations to the Board by May 2001.

The issue of food safety in Adult Family Homes has come up during this legislative session. Section 9 of Substitute House Bill 1320 and Senate Bill 5521 relates to food handling practices in Adult Family Homes. This section replaces Section 17 of the original bills that would have exempted Adult Family Home providers, managers, and employees from obtaining food handler permits as currently required under WAC 246-217-010.

On February 19, 2001, Don Sloma met with the bill's prime sponsor in the House, Carolyn Edmonds, the adult family home lobbyists, and DOH staff to discuss controversies surrounding this section of the bill. This group proposed an amendment that would ensure that workers in Adult Family Homes get adequate food handler training (pursuant to 69.09 RCW) through the already required Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS) education program. There is still some controversy surrounding this amended language. The amended language reads as follows.

"The department shall implement, as part of the required training and continuing education, a food safety component that meets the standards established by the State Board of Health pursuant to 69.06 RCW. Individual food handler permits are not required for persons successfully completing the training."

**Recommended Board Motions:**

*No action recommended.*